

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/8) (from Ch. 23, par. 5008)

7 Sec. 8. Scholarships and fee waivers. Each year the
8 Department shall select a minimum of 53 students (at least 4 of
9 whom shall be children of veterans) to receive scholarships and
10 fee waivers which will enable them to attend and complete their
11 post-secondary education at a community college, university,
12 or college. Youth shall be selected from among the youth for
13 whom the Department has court-ordered legal responsibility,
14 ~~may select from among the youth under care,~~ youth who aged out
15 of care at age 18 or older, or youth formerly under care who
16 have been adopted or who have been placed in private
17 guardianship. Recipients must ~~or are in a guardianship~~
18 ~~placement, a maximum of 48 students (at least 4 of whom shall~~
19 ~~be children of veterans) who~~ have earned a high school diploma
20 from an accredited institution, a General Education
21 Development certificate or diploma, or have met the State
22 criteria for high school graduation before the start of the
23 school year for which they are applying for the scholarship and

1 ~~waiver. a public school district or a recognized nonpublic~~
2 ~~school or a certificate of general education development (GED),~~
3 ~~or who have met the State criteria for high school graduation ;~~
4 ~~the youth selected shall be eligible for scholarships and fee~~
5 ~~waivers which will entitle them to 4 consecutive years of~~
6 ~~community college, university, or college education.~~

7 Scholarships and fee waivers shall be available to students for
8 at least 5 years, provided they are continuing to work toward
9 graduation. Unused scholarship dollars and fee waivers shall be
10 reallocated to new recipients. No later than January 1, 2015,
11 the Department shall promulgate rules identifying the criteria
12 for "continuing to work toward graduation", and for
13 reallocating unused scholarships and fee waivers. Selection
14 shall be made on the basis of several factors, including, but
15 not limited to, scholastic record, aptitude, and general
16 interest in higher education. The selection committee shall
17 include at least 2 individuals formerly under the care of the
18 Department who have completed their post-secondary education.

19 In accordance with this Act, tuition scholarships and fee
20 waivers shall be available to such students at any university
21 or college maintained by the State of Illinois. The Department
22 shall provide maintenance and school expenses, except tuition
23 and fees, during the academic years to supplement the students'
24 earnings or other resources so long as they consistently
25 maintain scholastic records which are acceptable to their
26 schools and to the Department. Students may attend other

1 colleges and universities, if scholarships are awarded them,
2 and receive the same benefits for maintenance and other
3 expenses as those students attending any Illinois State
4 community college, university, or college under this Section.
5 Beginning with recipients receiving scholarships and waivers
6 in August 2014, the Department shall collect data and report
7 annually to the General Assembly on measures of success
8 including (i) the number of youth applying for and receiving
9 scholarships, (ii) the percentage of scholarship recipients
10 who complete their college or university degree within 5 years,
11 (iii) the average length of time it takes for scholarship
12 recipients to complete their college or university degree, (iv)
13 the reasons that scholarship recipients are discharged or fail
14 to complete their college or university degree, (v) when
15 available youths' outcomes 5 years and 10 years after being
16 awarded the scholarships, and (vi) budget allocations for
17 maintenance and school expenses incurred by the Department.

18 (Source: P.A. 97-799, eff. 7-13-12.)